

Annual Progress Report

Fiscal Year 2008



Committed to the future of rural communities.

West Virginia
"The Mountain State"



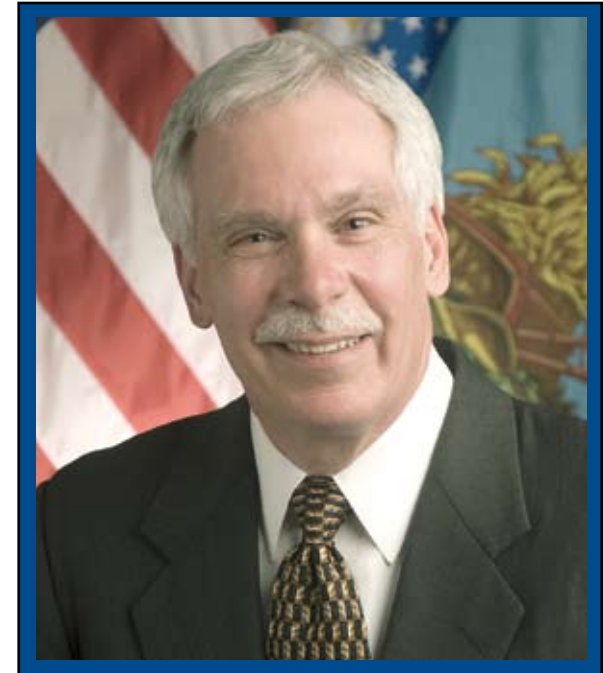
With the right policies, we will maintain America's competitive edge, we will create more jobs, and we will improve the quality of life and standard of living for generations to come.

President George W. Bush

In his 2006 State of the Union Address

It has been almost a year since President George W. Bush asked me to serve as the 29th Secretary of Agriculture, and I have had many great days working with the dedicated men and women at USDA to move our agriculture, conservation, and rural development policies forward. Together, we have accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time.

For more than 70 years, USDA Rural Development's mission has been to deliver a future that brings expanded economic opportunities and an improved quality of life for rural residents. My family's heritage is deeply rooted in rural agriculture, and I will forever be proud of my rural upbringing. Also, having served 8 years as Governor of an agriculture State, North Dakota, gave me a thorough appreciation for rural economic development. Serving USDA has been more than a job; it has been a personal commitment. For me, the future of rural America is *my* future as well.



So, it has indeed been my pleasure to work with Under Secretary Thomas Dorr and the 6,000 dedicated professionals at Rural Development to develop a rural America that is a healthy, safe, and prosperous place in which to live and work. I have never met a more driven and passionate advocate for our rural communities than the Under Secretary. As Tom is fond of saying, Rural Development, with its myriad of programs, is the only Federal agency that can build a community from the ground up.

As we enter a new fiscal year, USDA is being called upon to help the Nation develop renewable energy, decrease our reliance on foreign oil, and help create extraordinary opportunities for rural entrepreneurs.

I have been proud to serve our Nation during these exciting and challenging times. I am confident that with the support of USDA Rural Development, rural America's best days are yet to come.

Ed Schafer

Secretary of Agriculture

FOCUSING ON OPPORTUNITY

Call it the Rural Renaissance.

Rural America is changing. An estimated 60 million people live in rural areas and most of them don't farm. Traditional rural industries -- agriculture, forestry, and mining -- are still important, but rural America today is diverse, vibrant, and growing. It is a place where world-class diagnostics can be made available to local health providers via the internet ... where an industry leader like Viking Range can thrive in a Mississippi Delta town of fewer than 20,000 people ... where biofuels, wind, and solar power are driving a revolution in renewable energy ... and in which millions of people, who in an earlier era would have fled to the city, find in rural communities a superior quality of life.

Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has invested over \$111 billion in business development, infrastructure, community facilities and rural housing. To us, the Rural Renaissance is not just a slogan; it is already a tangible reality in many rural communities, and a promise of a better tomorrow in many others.

USDA Rural Development is approaching its 75th anniversary, and the prospects for rural America have never been brighter. Rural America is changing. USDA Rural Development is changing along with it to meet new challenges and opportunities. But one thing has not changed: the partnership between USDA Rural Development and millions of rural Americans. It is truly a privilege to serve rural America, and because of that partnership, we can meet the challenges of today with confidence in a better tomorrow.

Thomas C. Dorr
*Under Secretary
USDA Rural Development*



It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve this past fiscal year as USDA Rural Development State Director for West Virginia. It has provided me the opportunity to serve and provide assistance to West Virginians across the entire state. However, I give all the credit for our successes to the dedicated team of employees within our state organization. The successes of USDA Rural Development are not a result of actions taken by the State Director, but rather the concentrated efforts of our people.

I could not be prouder of our staff and our accomplishments and it has been my pleasure to work with such energetic and knowledgeable professionals. The citizens of West Virginia are indeed lucky to have our staff working for them. In addition, this year we have worked closely with US Senator Robert C. Byrd, US Senator John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV, US Congressman Alan Mollohan, US Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito, US Congressman Nick Rahall, and West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin III. Creating strong alliances with these leaders has helped us tremendously in delivering our services to the great people of West Virginia. In closing, I would like to thank President George W. Bush for providing me this opportunity to do what I love...serve the citizens of the great state of West Virginia.

Rick E. Rice
*State Director, West Virginia
USDA Rural Development*



West Virginia Fiscal Year 2008 Investment

Utilities Programs:

Water & Waste Loans	\$ 41,807,706	26
Water & Waste Grants	\$ 18,512,000	22
Technical Assistance & Training Grants	\$ 986,100	1
Solid Waste Management Grant	\$ 150,000	1
Community Connect Grant	\$ 628,200	1
TOTAL UTILITIES:	\$ 62,084,006	51

Water & Wastewater Users Assisted = 21,700

Business & Cooperative Programs:

Guaranteed B&I	\$ 17,753,000	6
Intermediary Relending Program Loans	\$ 1,500,000	2
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	\$ 1,770,901	15
1890s Land Grants	\$ 100,000	1
Value-Added Producer Grants	\$ 75,000	1
Rural Empowerment Zone Grants	\$ 123,152	1
TOTAL BUSINESS & COOPERATIVE:	\$ 21,322,053	26

Jobs Created = 552 Jobs Saved = 457 Businesses Assisted = 90

West Virginia Fiscal Year 2008 Investment continued

Multi-Family Housing Programs:

Section 538 Guaranteed	\$ 5,425,000	6
Rental Assistance	\$ 4,884,365	

Single-Family Housing Programs:

Section 502 Direct Loans	\$ 15,982,850	137
Section 502 Guaranteed Loans	\$ 82,179,985	693
Section 504 Loans and Grants	\$ 1,185,806	237
Housing Preservation Grants	\$ 198,676	4
Leveraged Loans	\$ 952,770	30
Section 523 Mutual Self-Help Grants	\$ 161,352	1
RCDI Grant	\$ 234,643	1

TOTAL HOUSING PROGRAMS:	\$111,205,447	1,109
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Community Facilities:

Direct Loans	\$ 8,603,000	3
Grants	\$ 335,000	18
Economic Impact Initiative Grant	\$ 251,000	1

TOTAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES:	\$ 9,189,000	22
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**TOTAL USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INVESTMENT IN WV – FY 2008**

\$203,800,506 1,208

Telecommunications



Historic Circleville High School, Pendleton County, was the site of an event of enormous significance when Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks Telephone, Inc., (SKSRT) was presented a ceremonial check in the amount of \$7,789,000.

The funds are a telecommunications loan through USDA Rural Development.



JANUARY 2009



SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
								1 New Year's Day		2		3	
4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
11		12		13		14		15 Dr. M. L. King, Jr Day (True)		16		17	
18		19 Dr. M. L. King, Jr Day (Observed)		20 Inauguration Day		21		22		23		24	
25		26		27		28		29		30		31	

Value-Added Producer Grants



West Virginia Salmon and Trout was a 2008 recipient of an USDA Rural Development Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG). The company will use the grant funds to complete a study which will provide crucial test marketing and production data for its new high value salmonid product.

They use clean, clear water that is found deep underneath the West Virginia mountains and is free of pollutants and mercury.

West Virginia Salmon and Trout has facilities in Mingo and Logan Counties of West Virginia that use recirculating aquaculture techniques.



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FEBRUARY 2009



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

African American History Month

Community Facilities Loans and Grants



Rural Development funds were used to construct a 7,800 square foot child care center located within the Raleigh County Airport Business and Industrial Park.



MARCH 2009



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Starts	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Women's History Month			

USDA Rural Development Observes Earth Day 2008

Rural Development's Water and Environmental Programs played a major role in the observance of Earth Day 2008.

West Virginia State Director Rick E. Rice announced there were two awardees in *The Mountain State*. Mason County Public Service District was awarded a \$3,781,000 loan and \$1,919,000 grant while Wayne County's Lavalette Public Service District was awarded a \$2,165,000 loan and \$1,656,000 grant.



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APRIL 2009



SUNDAY		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Palm Sunday					Passover	Good Friday	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Easter							
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
			Administrative Professionals Day Earth Day	"Take Our Daughters & Sons To Work®"			
26	27	28	29	30			

Rural Business Enterprise Grants



Central Appalachia Empowerment Zone of West Virginia Corporation was approved for a \$200,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant through USDA Rural Development program funding.

On May 29, 2008, a check presentation ceremony was held in Wallback, Clay County, WV to celebrate the funding.

MAY 2009



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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

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Mother's Day

Armed Forces Day

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Memorial Day
(Observed)

Memorial Day (True)

June ~ Homeownership Month



In celebration of National Homeownership Month, several National, State and Local USDA Rural Development employees participated in various program events throughout the State of West Virginia.



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JUNE 2009



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Father's Day First Day of Summer						
28	29	30	31	National Homeownership Month		

Section 9006 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grant Program



Haroun Hallack, co-owner of Red Bud Farm located in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, stands proudly in front of the first Section 9006 Renewable Energy project in West Virginia.

Red Bud Farm's greenhouse production.



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JULY 2009



SUNDAY				MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY
								1		2		3		4 Independence Day
5		6		7		8		9		10		11		
12		13		14		15		16		17		18		
19		20		21		22		23		24		25		
26		27		28		29		30		31				

Intermediary Relending Program (IRP)



Mustang Survival, located in Elizabeth, Wirt County, WV, applied for and received a \$250,000 loan to purchase new equipment from Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council's revolving loan funds.

MOVRC operates the largest Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) in the State and has just received an additional \$750,000 from Fiscal Year 2008 USDA Rural Development funding to relend to eligible businesses.



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AUGUST 2009

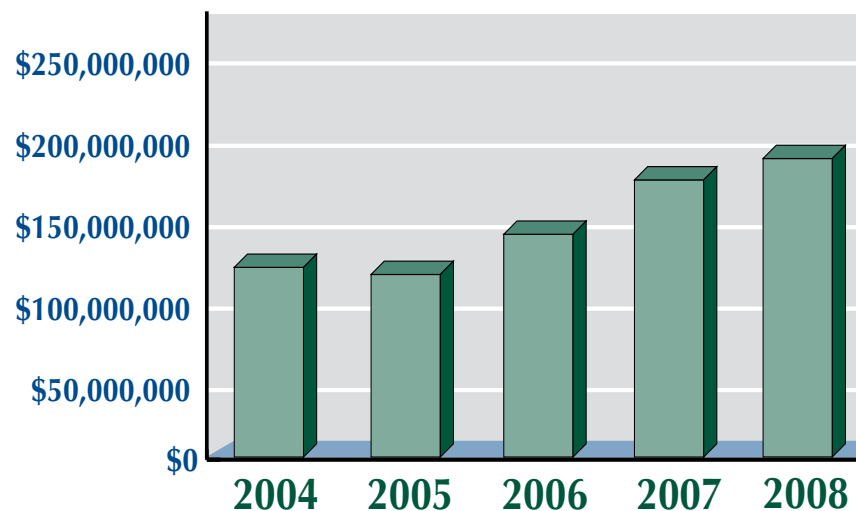


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30		31				

Section 504 Rehabilitation & Repair Loans and Grants



USDA Rural Development Investment in WV



Section 504 Repair & Rehabilitation funding was utilized to replace this deteriorated roof and improve the quality of life for Violet Malcolm in Moorefield, Hardy County, WV, as depicted by these “before” and “after” photographs.



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SEPTEMBER 2009



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13 Grandparents Day	14	15	16	17	18	19 Rosh Hashanah
20	21	22 First Day of Autumn	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)		

Utilities Programs



USDA Rural Development State Director Rick Rice announced that West Virginia was awarded over \$23 Million from 2008 Farm Bill funding, the highest percentage received by any one State across the Nation.

The Farm Bill funding will provide safe drinking water and improved wastewater treatment systems for rural areas.



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OCTOBER 2009



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

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Columbus Day

Boss's Day

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Halloween

Multi-Family Housing



VALLEY VILLAGE

Section 538 Guaranteed

Elkins, WV

2 story – 48 Units Elderly Complex

24 (1) bedroom apartments and 24 (2) bedroom apartments



WOOD VALLEY II

Section 515 Rehabilitation Transfer

Williamstown, WV

24 (2) bedroom Units - Family Complex



ELLE BELLA VILLA

Section 538 Guaranteed

Dunbar, WV

3 story – 52 Units Elderly Complex

26 (1) bedroom apartments and 26 (2) bedroom apartments



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NOVEMBER 2009



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30	Native American Heritage Month				

Section 502 Direct Housing Program

Zulfiqar and his wife, Neenah Minhas, received a Section 502 Direct Housing loan to purchase and repair an existing home.

Pictured l to r: Zulfiqar, his daughter Laykin, his wife Neenah, and daughter Lacrishia stand in front of their new home located in Keyser, WV.



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DECEMBER 2009



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 First Day of Hanukkah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 First Day of Winter	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29 Last Day of Hanukkah	30	31		

USDA Rural Development Programs

- **Housing Programs** - Rural Development offers both Single – and Multi-Family Housing options to rural West Virginians, meeting a variety of housing needs. Through the Single-Family Housing Programs, low– and very-low income families can obtain homeownership, repair and rehabilitate their homes, or even build a new home.
- **The Multi-Family Housing Program** partners with private and non-profit developers to provide affordable rental housing, as well as subsidized rental options for low– and very-low income families and the elderly.
- **Business and Cooperative Programs** - These programs offer economic and community development opportunities to West Virginia entrepreneurs and small businesses. Programs are available to: start-up, acquire or expand a business; purchase land or construct buildings; establish community development projects; develop rural cooperatives; advance value-added opportunities; establish economic development plans and feasibility studies; fund renewable energy projects; and much more.
- **Community Programs** - These projects assist community facilities and utilities in rural areas. Through the Community Facilities Programs, assistance is provided to facilities such as libraries, schools and First Responders (e.g., ambulance services, hospitals), using a variety of programs that assist in funding construction, operating costs, repairs and equipment.
- **The Utilities Programs** provide assistance such as building, repairing or improving rural water and wastewater systems, and provide technical assistance and training to solid waste facilities. Programs also exist for telecommunications, healthcare facilities and broadband.

Rural Development Participates in “Take Our Daughters & Sons To Work[®]” Program

Those participating were (l to r): front row – Mikhaila Missimer (daughter of Chris & Shelley Missimer), Jessica Gillespie (daughter of Mark & Roni Gillespie), and Peyton Missimer (son of Chris & Shelley Missimer); back row – Rachel Crysler (daughter of Jim & Dianne Crysler), Zach Taylor (son of Harry Taylor), and Ben Taylor (son of Harry Taylor).



Georgette Bilotta, Housing Specialist, is pictured above with three of the six participants.



Annually, Rural Development participates in the “Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work[®]” Program. This program encourages youth to think about the challenge of balancing work, family, community and personal responsibilities.

Rural Development employees stressed Fiscal Year 2008’s theme, “Making Choices for a Better World” and discussed recycling and other subjects relative to the theme with the six youth participants.



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